



Science: the Key to Effective Dioxins Pollution Prevention

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Prevention in the San Francisco Bay Area

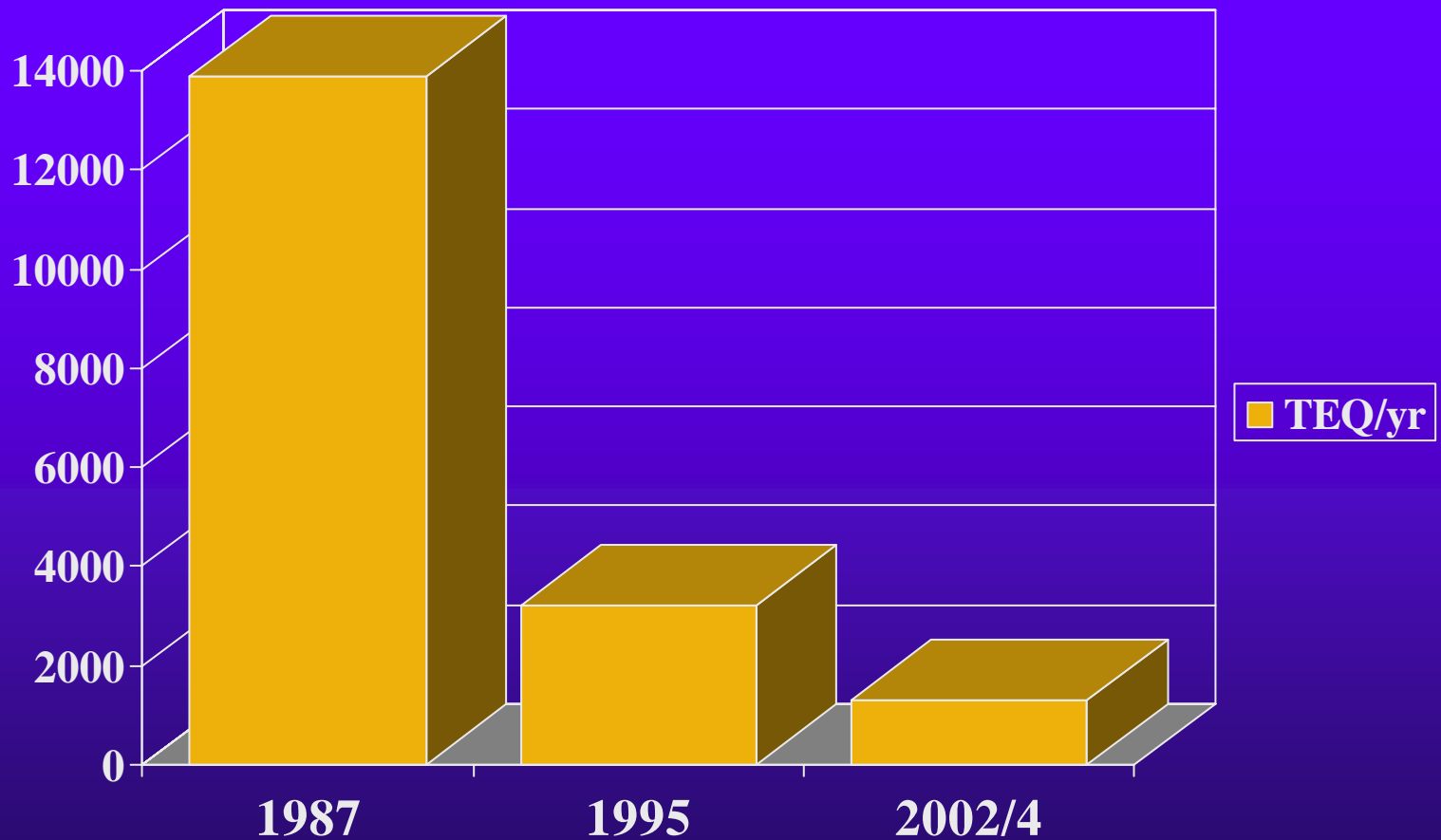
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Introduction

- ◆ Dioxins are toxic, unintentional by-products, and serve no useful purpose
- ◆ “We have been successful in dramatically reducing dioxins emissions” – EPA, 2000
- ◆ >90% reduction in dioxins in past 30 years
- ◆ Nevertheless, EPA believes reductions still needed
- ◆ Dioxins pollution prevention is desirable
- ◆ Approach you adopt will determine value of decision – science makes the difference

Estimated U.S. Dioxin Emissions from Quantified Sources



Source: EPA, 2000



Use the Science: Sources & Results

- ◆ 95% of human exposure to dioxins through diet -- EPA
- ◆ Nationally, “backyard burning” is largest single source today -- EPA
- ◆ Wood-burning and diesel engines are the largest local sources -- BAAQMD
- ◆ Other sources appear to be emit negligible, some cases theoretical, amounts
- ◆ Achieved reductions because:
 - 1) have focused on known sources (data)
 - 2) applied solutions that work (data)



Example:

Is “Paper” a Bay Area Source?

- ◆ Dioxin emissions virtually eliminated from US pulp & paper industry via ECF process
- ◆ No paper mills in Bay Area
- ◆ Dioxins not detectable in ECF or TCF paper
- ◆ Dioxin emissions from burning paper in the Bay Area “is believed to be very low” (BAAQMD, 2002) - not sure because can’t measure it
- ◆ Question: what are benefits to changing?



Power of Purchasing Preferences

- ◆ A useful tool
- ◆ Should be fact-based and will make a difference
- ◆ Purchasing preferences should consider dioxins, as well as other pollutants (e.g., particulate matter, diesel) – most bang for buck!
- ◆ Address major environmental challenges in the Bay Area



Conclusions

- ◆ Dioxins pollution prevention is desirable
- ◆ Know the sources and the options
- ◆ Evaluate each option to ensure that it makes a meaningful difference

Key to Success.....

- ◆ Use the science in making your decisions